Non-Optimum utilisation of Costly Radar

2465. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilisation of radar installed in August, 1992, at a initial cost of Rs. 15.39 crore continue to be sub-optimal despite incurring an additional expenditure of Rs. 1.89 crore in May, 1997;

(b) whether the radar has been installed at a distance of only 100 metre from the sea whereas it should have been installed at a distance of 100 sq. km.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) After software modification in 1997, the overall performance of the radar improved. The radar has since been shifted to another location where it is functioning satisfactorily.

(b) to (d) The radar was installed at the initial site as a replacement for an earlier radar, at a distance of 100 metres from the sea. The site was selected on the basis of operational needs/ experience and availability of infra-structure.

High Alert in Ordnance Factories

†2466. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to declare high alert in all ordnance factories of the country in view of the present situation prevailing in the country and the world;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.